

Lofar Users Committee: Updates on activities and feedback

Annalisa Bonafede

IRA - INAF

The LOFAR Users Committee

- ❖ Set up on 1.4.2016
- ❖ The committee: Annalisa Bonafede (chair)
 - ❖ Andre' Offringa, Diana Morosan, Emilio Enriquez, Francesco de Gasperin, Javier Moldon, Dan Stinebring, Jess Broderick, Raymond Oonk, Mary Knapp

LUC main goals

- ❖ Synthesizing user experiences
- ❖ Feedback to the Radio Observatory in improving performance of the facility and maximising the usage of LOFA

Interaction with RO

- ❖ 1 formal report per year:
 - ❖ After Lofar Users Meeting —> written report to the RO; LUC report discussed at the ILT meeting; RO writes back to the LUC
 - ❖ More informal interactions in-between 2 Lofar Users Meetings (e.g. intermediate report + discussion between LUC Chair and RO)

1st Report

- ❖ Software requirements;
- ❖ Observations and data retrieval;
- ❖ Communication Users-ASTRON;
- ❖ Other issues specific to observing modes.

1st Report

- ❖ 3 too priorities:
 - ❖ 1) Accurate Beam model (HBA + LBA)
 - ❖ 2) Migration towards unique calibration software (NDPPP)
 - ❖ 3) Improve portability of LOFAR software

Top priorities: 1

Accurate Beam model (HBA + LBA)

- Project to address this issue has been defined - R&D new antenna engineer - results expected this year
- ASTRON R&D (+ Italian SKA group) have begun modelling of HBA (LBA) antennas in full polarisation, plans to validate these results against drone measurements

Top priorities: 2

Unique calibration software

- NDPP capabilities largely expanded and improved (CITT2 & CITT2 advisory group)

Top priorities: 3

Improve portability of LOFAR software

- The Radio Observatory will be able to share LOFAR software via Docker and support users during the installation only if more resources will become available for LOFAR software development in 2017. This is currently under investigation.
- Currently, Raymond Oonk & LOFAR e-infra group - Docker has many issues with permissions and might be hard to be used on some Linux platforms - working on porting LOFAR to singularity containers (docker-like but without most of the docker issues)

Other points

- LUC acknowledges the effort by the RO and its staff, but it is clear to us that **more resources** are needed (software & science support) to tackle all the issues raised by the Users

- LUC advice an interface with users following NRAO for JVLA data (tutorial, examples,...)

A **ticketing system** to replace Redmine and with more functionality - including a ticket to the LUC - is under investigation

Next meeting

- Next LOFAR Users meeting: Friday, 23.6.17 in Bologna
- Next LUC meeting: Wednesday, 21.6.17